

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method of reducing water influx into a wellbore, comprising the following  
5 steps:
  - (a) first introducing a gelant into the wellbore, wherein the wellbore is in fluid communication with a subterranean formation; and
  - 10 (b) second introducing a temporarily stable foam into the wellbore in order to overdisplace the gelant from the wellbore and into the formation.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the gelant is comprised of a polymer.
- 15 3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the gelant is further comprised of a cross-linker.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymer is comprised of a polyacrylamide.
- 20 5. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the cross-linker is comprised of chromium ions.
6. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein a ratio by weight of the  
25 polyacrylamide to the chromium ions in the gelant is no greater than about 80 to 1.
7. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the polymer is comprised of a relatively high molecular weight polyacrylamide and wherein a concentration of the polyacrylamide in the gelant is no greater than about 2 percent by weight of the gelant.
- 30 8. The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the formation is a fractured formation.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the concentration of the polyacrylamide in the gelant is no greater than about 1 percent by weight of the gelant.

10. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the formation has a permeability and wherein the permeability of the formation is greater than or equal to about 1000 mD.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the polymer is comprised of a relatively high molecular weight polyacrylamide and wherein a concentration of the polyacrylamide in the gelant is between about 0.2 and 1 percent by weight of the gelant.

12. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the formation has a permeability and wherein the permeability of the formation is less than about 1000 mD.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the polymer is comprised of a relatively low molecular weight polyacrylamide and wherein a concentration of the polyacrylamide in the gelant is at least about 1 percent by weight of the gelant.

14. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the foam is comprised of water and a surfactant.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the surfactant is comprised of an olefin sulfonate.

16. The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the surfactant is comprised of alpha olefin sulfonate.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein a concentration of the surfactant in the foam is no greater than about 0.1 percent by weight of the foam.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the concentration of the surfactant in the foam is no greater than about 0.05 percent by weight of the foam.

19. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the gelant has a gelant effective viscosity, wherein the foam has a foam effective viscosity, and wherein the gelant effective viscosity and the foam effective viscosity are approximately equal.

5 20. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the gelant has a gelant effective viscosity, wherein the foam has a foam effective viscosity, and wherein the gelant effective viscosity is less than or about equal to the foam effective viscosity.